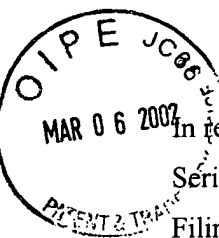


Atty. Docket No. 8571:73

#9/a withdraw  
con.  
TECHNICAL  
PATENTS  
Customer No. 172444  
3/20/02  
2800

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**



In re Application of:

Thomas E. Drake, Jr.

Serial No.

09/766,180

Filing Date:

January 19, 2001

Examiner

Saint Surin, Jacques M.

Group Art Unit

2856

Title:

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR IMPROVING THE  
DYNAMIC RANGE OF LASER DETECTED  
ULTRASOUND IN ATTENUATIVE MATERIALS

BOX NONFEE AMENDMENT  
Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

Dear Sir:

Applicants hereby respectfully submit its Response to the Office Action mailed December 16, 2001 (paper no. 3). As such, this response is submitted within the 3-month shortened statutory deadline. Therefore, Applicants submit that no additional fee is due.

In view of the following amendments and remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding objections and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. Applicants appreciate the interview of February 1, 2002 and effort made in consideration of this amendment by the Examiner.

A